

## Some Republican-led states refuse to let Justice Department monitors into polling places

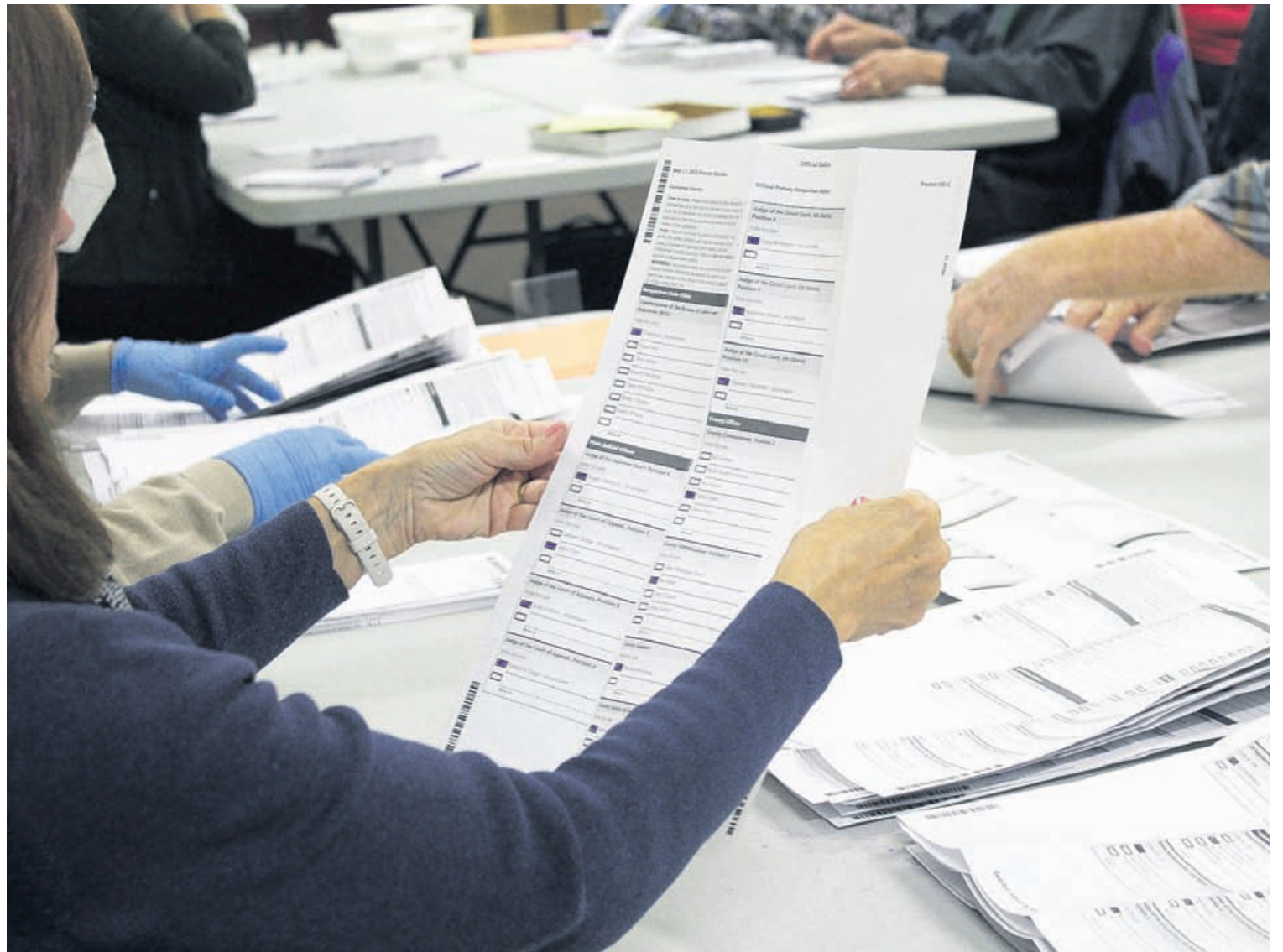
By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER  
and JIM SALTER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Some Republican-led states say they will block the Justice Department's election monitors from going inside polling places on Election Day, pushing back on federal authorities' decades-long practice of watching for violations of federal voting laws.

Officials in Florida and Texas have said they won't allow federal election monitors into polling sites on Tuesday. And on Monday, Missouri filed a federal lawsuit seeking a court order to block federal officials from observing inside polling places.

The Justice Department announced last week that it's deploying election monitors in 86 jurisdictions across 27 states on Election Day. The Justice Department declined to comment on Monday on the Missouri lawsuit and the moves by other Republican-led states.



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An election worker examines a ballot at the Clackamas County Elections office, May 19, 2022, in Oregon City, Ore.

Associated Press

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# Some Republican-led states refuse to let Justice Department monitors into polling places

Continued from Front

The race between Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and Republican nominee Donald Trump is a dead heat, and both sides are bracing for potential legal challenges to vote tallies. The Justice Department's election monitoring effort, a long practice under both Democratic and Republican administrations, is meant to ensure that federal voting rights are being followed. Here's a look at election monitors and the states' actions:

## Who are the election monitors?

Election monitors are lawyers who work for the Justice Department, including in the civil rights division and U.S. attorney's offices across the country. They are not law enforcement officers or federal agents.

For decades, the Justice Department's civil rights division has sent attorneys and staff members to monitor polling places across the country in both federal and non-federal elections. The monitors are tasked with ensuring the compliance of federal voting rights laws.

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division enforces a number of statutes protecting the right to vote. That includes Voting Rights Act, which prohibits intimidation



Voters are reflected in a window near an American flag as they mark their ballots during early voting in the general election, Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, at City Hall in Providence, R.I.

Associated Press

and threats against those who are casting ballots or counting votes. And it includes the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandates that election officials ensure people with disabilities have the full and equal opportunity to vote.

## Where are election monitors being sent?

The 86 jurisdictions that the Justice Department will send monitors to on Tuesday include Maricopa County, Arizona and Fulton County, Georgia, which in 2020 became the center of election conspiracy theories spread by Trump and other Republicans.

Another place on the list is Portage County, Ohio, where a sheriff came under fire for a social media post in which he said people with Harris yard signs should have their addresses recorded so that immigrants can be sent to live with them if the Democrat wins the presidency.

Other areas where federal monitors will be sent include Detroit, Michigan; Queens, New York; Providence, Rhode Island; Jackson County, South Dakota; Salem, Massachusetts; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Manassas, Virginia; Cuyahoga County, Ohio and Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska. The Justice

Department's monitors will be in St. Louis, Missouri; four jurisdictions in Florida and eight jurisdictions in Texas.

## What's happening in Missouri?

In filing the lawsuit on Monday, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said state law "clearly and specifically limits who may be in polling places." He also accused the federal government of "attempting to illegally interfere in Missouri's elections." The lawsuit states that Missouri law "permits only certain categories of persons to be present in voting locations, including voters, minor children accompanying voters,

poll workers, election judges, etc.," and not federal officials.

The Justice Department also sought to monitor polling places in Missouri in 2022. The agency planned to have officials at Cole County, which includes Jefferson City, the state capital. County Clerk Steve Korsmeyer had said he wouldn't let them in if they show up.

The federal agency backed down after Ashcroft showed Justice Department officials the state law, Ashcroft said. He says the Justice Department is now "trying to go through the back door" by contacting local election officials for access.

Messages were left Monday with the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners.

The St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners reached a settlement in 2021 with the Justice Department aimed at ensuring people with mobility and vision impairments can access to polling places after federal officials found problems, such as ramps that were too steep and inaccessible parking, according to the court papers.

The settlement, which expires next year, says the board must "cooperate fully" with Justice Department's efforts to monitor compliance, "including but not limited to providing the United States with timely access to polling places (including on Election Day)." □



Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey delivers the State of the State address at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Ala., on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

**MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)** — Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey was treated by paramedics Sunday after appearing to become unsteady at a

campaign rally for congressional candidate Caroleene Dobson.

Ivey's office said the governor had gotten dehydrated

## Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey treated for dehydration at campaign rally

and recovered after being treated with fluids. She returned to work Monday, her spokeswoman said.

Ivey, 80, was attending a Sunday evening campaign rally for Dobson at Sweet-Creek Farm Market in Pike Road, about 18 miles (29 kilometers) southeast of Montgomery, when the incident occurred. Witnesses said Ivey was shaking as she stood with Dobson and held on to a beam for support. WAKA posted video from the event showing the governor looking unsteady.

The station reported that members of Ivey's staff then ran up to her. An ambulance was called to the scene. "While campaigning for Caroleene Dobson at an event this evening, the governor got dehydrated. She received fluids and was evaluated on site out of precaution. She immediately felt better and is at home doing well this evening," Ivey spokeswoman Gina Maiola wrote in a texted statement.

Maiola said the governor was in the office Monday.

She had meetings scheduled with legislative leaders and others.

The Republican governor announced in 2019 that she had been diagnosed with early stage lung cancer and would undergo radiation treatments. She said in 2020 that the cancer appeared to be gone and that her doctor considered her cancer-free.

Dobson is the Republican nominee in the 2nd Congressional District. Ivey has endorsed Dobson in the race. □



## U.S. gives Israel a 'fail' grade on improving aid to Gaza so far

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Biden administration is stepping up criticism of Israel for not doing enough to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza as a 30-day deadline looms for Israeli officials to meet certain requirements or risk potential restrictions on military assistance.

The administration also is condemning recent violence against Palestinians in the West Bank by extremist Jewish settlers and says those responsible must be held to account.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller on Monday gave Israel a "fail" grade in terms of meeting the conditions for an improvement in aid deliveries to Gaza laid out in a letter last month to senior Israeli officials by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

He said there were still roughly nine days until the deadline expires, but that limited progress thus far has been insufficient.

"As of today, the situation has not significantly turned around," Miller told reporters. "We have seen an increase in some measurements. But if you look at the stipulated recommendations in the letter, those have not been met."



**Palestinians gather to receive bags of flour distributed by UNRWA, the U.N. agency helping Palestinian refugees, in Deir al Balah, central Gaza Strip, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.**

Associated Press

A day before the election, the Biden administration called out its close ally, with support for Israel a key issue for many voters and the humanitarian crisis for Palestinians also a factor for many in the race. Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris have been competing for Muslim and Arab American voters and Jewish voters in battleground states like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Among other conditions, Austin and Blinken's letter from mid-October said that

Israel must allow in a minimum of 350 trucks a day carrying desperately needed food and other supplies for Palestinians besieged by more than a year of war between Israel and Hamas. By the end of October, an average of just 71 trucks a day were entering Gaza, according to the latest U.N. figures.

"The results are not good enough today," Miller said. "They certainly do not have a pass. ... They have failed to implement all the things that that we recommended. Now, that said, we are

not at the end of the 30-day period."

He would not say when asked what the U.S. would do when the deadline comes up next week, just that "we will follow the law."

Similarly, Austin has been reinforcing "how important it is to ensure that humanitarian assistance can flow and flow faster into Gaza" in calls with his Israeli counterpart, Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, told reporters Monday.

The head of UNICEF, the

U.N. agency for children, said over the weekend that "the entire Palestinian population in North Gaza, especially children, is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine, and the ongoing bombardments."

Miller also said the U.S. is looking into a decision by the Israeli government to end an agreement facilitating the work of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, which is the main aid provider in Gaza.

It followed the passage of Israeli laws last week to sever ties with UNRWA, a move that Blinken and Austin opposed in their letter.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement Monday that it has notified the U.N. of the cancellation of an agreement dating back to 1967 that facilitates UNRWA's work. It said UNRWA "is part of the problem in the Gaza Strip and not part of the solution."

Israel alleges that UNRWA has been infiltrated by Hamas, which the agency denies and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated that UNRWA is essential and there is no alternative to its work in the Palestinian territories, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. □

## You may have blocked someone on X but now they can see your public posts anyway

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

Elon Musk's X has been modified so that accounts you've blocked on the social media platform can still see your public posts.

X updated its Help Center page over the weekend to explain how blocking now works on the site. While you can still block accounts, those accounts will now be able to see your posts unless you have made your account private. They won't, however, be able to reply to them or repost them. Blocked accounts also won't be able to fol-

low you and you won't be able to follow them, as has been the case before the policy change.

In addition, if the owner of an account you blocked visits your profile on X, they will be able to learn that you have blocked them. X indicated that the change was aimed at protecting users who have been blocked.

In a post on its Engineering account on the service, X said the blocking feature "can be used by users to share and hide harmful or private information about those they've blocked.

Users will be able to see if such behavior occurs with this update, allowing for greater transparency."

But critics say the changes could harm victims and survivors of abuse, for instance. Thomas Ristenpart, professor of computer security at Cornell Tech and co-founder of the Clinic to End Tech Abuse, said it can be critical for the safety of survivors of intimate-partner violence to be able to control who sees their posts.

"We often hear reports about posts to social media enabling abusers to stalk them or triggering fur-

ther harassment," he said. "Removing users' ability to block problematic indi-

viduals will be a huge step backwards for survivor safety." □



**Workers install lighting on an "X" sign atop the company headquarters, formerly known as Twitter, in downtown San Francisco, July 28, 2023.**

Associated Press



# California sues LA suburb for temporary ban of homeless shelters

By **TRẦN NGUYEN**

**Associated Press**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**

— California filed a lawsuit against a Los Angeles suburb on Monday, alleging the city's recent moratorium on homeless shelters and temporary housing violates the state's fair housing and anti-discrimination laws.

The lawsuit is part of an ongoing effort by Gov. Gavin Newsom to push back against what he sees as local resistance and defiance of state laws in the face of California's desperate need for new housing. The crisis has prompted a surge in the homeless population in the nation's most populous state.

Norwalk, a city of 100,000 people some 15 miles (24 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles, becomes the latest city to face legal actions from the state over housing policies. That came after the city council voted in September to extend its temporary ban on new homeless shelters and emergency housing.

City councilmembers in a recent statement said Norwalk has done its fair share to address the homeless crisis but previous state pro-



**California Attorney General Rob Bonta speaks during a press conference, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, in San Francisco.**

grams, including one that puts homeless people in motel rooms, have led to public safety concerns. The moratorium, which remains in effect until next year, already has blocked a plan by the County of Los Angeles in September to move homeless people into a hotel in the city.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court argues that the city violated half a dozen hous-

ing laws by enacting such a moratorium. It is asking the court to halt the city's law.

"Our message is clear, our message is consistent," Attorney General Rob Bonta said Monday. "If local governments attempt to skirt state housing laws, if they refuse to do the bare minimum to address the dire lack of affordable and accessible housing in California, we will hold them ac-

countable." Monday's lawsuit comes after Newsom publicly blasted Norwalk and urged local elected officials to reconsider the policy. The state in September warned the city of potential legal action and last month revoked the city's housing plan, effectively disqualifying it from receiving state funding for homeless and housing programs. Bonta said state officials also met with the city last

week but to no avail.

"The Norwalk City Council's failure to reverse this ban, despite knowing it is unlawful, is inexcusable," Newsom said in a statement Monday. "No community should turn its back on its residents in need."

The city mayor and a city spokesperson didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment about the lawsuit.

California has ramped up enforcement of state housing laws in the last few years. It sued at least two cities last year for rejecting affordable housing projects and homes for homeless people. Last month, Newsom also signed a package of 32 housing bills to make it easier for the state to go after local cities that defy housing laws.

The lawsuit will likely escalate the conflict between the state and local governments over how many housing projects cities should approve, and how fast they should build them. California needs to build 2.5 million homes by 2030 to keep up with demand, according to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. □

**Associated Press**

## Search for 4 missing boaters in California suspended after crews find 1 child dead and 1 alive

**BODEGA BAY, Calif. (AP)**

— The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended a massive search for four boaters who went missing in Northern

California after their boat capsized over the weekend when search crews found an 11-year-old boy alive and recovered the

body of a teenager, officials said Monday.

Crews began searching by land, sea and air Saturday evening after the Coast Guard received a report that a 21-foot boat carrying three adults and three children had failed to return to shore in Sonoma County, north of San Francisco, U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Levi Read said.

On Sunday, search crews found the 11-year-old boy alive along South Salmon Creek Beach, north of Bodega Bay, who was taken to a hospital and stabilized. The boy, who was found wearing a vest, was interviewed by first responders and told them the boat capsized, Deputy Rob Dillion, a spokesman with the

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office told the Press Democrat newspaper.

Hours after the boy was found, searchers located the body of a teenager in the water, Read said.

Five members of a family and a friend were on a blue and white Bayliner that set out from Bodega Bay at 3 p.m. on Saturday, the first day of the recreational Dungeness crab season. The group from Corning, a city about 170 miles (273 kilometers) north of San Francisco, was fishing for crab and was expected to return to shore by 7 p.m., Read said.

When they didn't show up, a family member contacted the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, which in

turn contacted the Coast Guard, he said.

The search effort involving crews from eight local, state and federal agencies was suspended Sunday evening but could resume if new information emerges that could help officials narrow the search, which covered more than 2,100 square miles, he said.

"The decision to suspend a search is always difficult to make and never done lightly," said U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Michael L. Zapawa, who also coordinated the search and rescue, said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the missing boaters during this incredibly difficult time." □



**In this photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, a U.S. Coast Guard crew moors a boat to a pier in Bodega Bay, Calif., on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, after searching for a group of boaters that went missing near Bodega Bay.**

**Associated Press**



# The death toll in Lebanon crosses 3,000 in the 13-month Israel-Hezbollah war, Health Ministry says

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **MEL-ANIE LIDMAN**

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — The 13-month war between Israel and Hezbollah has killed more than 3,000 people in Lebanon, the country's Health Ministry said on Monday, more than double the number of people killed since their last major war two decades ago. The war shows no signs of ending, and Israel has said it is carrying out new operations targeting Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon and in parts of Syria while Hezbollah continues to launch dozens of rockets into northern Israel.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel the day after Hamas' surprise attack into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran. For nearly a year, the conflict was mostly contained to the areas along the border between Israel and Lebanon. The conflict dramatically escalated on Sept. 23 with intense Israeli airstrikes on south and east Lebanon as well as Beirut's southern suburbs, leaving hundreds dead and leading to the displacement of nearly 1.2 million people.

Israel began a ground invasion of south Lebanon on



People inspect a destroyed building hit in an Israeli airstrike, in the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

Oct. 1, causing wide destruction in border villages but making little advances on the ground inside Lebanon. Israel says it is destroying Hezbollah weapons and command centers near the border, including an extensive tunnel system built by Hezbollah.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said 16 people were killed and 90 injured in attacks on Sunday, bringing the death toll to 3,002. At least 13,492 have been injured. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and

Hezbollah fighters in its toll. Israel claimed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters have been killed. In Israel, 72 people have been killed by Hezbollah attacks, including 30 soldiers, according to the prime minister's office. More than 60,000 people have been displaced from their homes. Also on Monday, Israel announced it terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza. It was the first step in implementing legislation passed

last week that would sever ties with the agency, which Israel says has been infiltrated by Hamas, and prevent it from operating in Israel.

The agency, known as UNRWA, denies the allegations and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement Monday that it has notified the U.N. of the cancellation of an agreement dating back to 1967 that facilitates UNRWA's work. It said UNRWA "is part of the problem in the Gaza Strip and not part of the so-

lution."

Israel controls all entry into Gaza, and aid groups have warned that the legislation could severely hamper UNRWA's work, creating further obstacles to addressing a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Israel says that UNRWA is responsible for only 13% of aid entering Gaza and it says other U.N. agencies and aid groups can fill the gap. But aid organizations say UNRWA is essential, and the agency says the Israeli figures do not account for the key role it plays in coordinating aid deliveries.

"Without UNRWA coordination, without UNRWA logistics platforms ... no U.N. agency could operate at the scale required," said Jonathan Fowler, a spokesman for the agency.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said the US was clear about their opposition to the legislation, and gravely concerned about the insufficient number of aid trucks entering Gaza. "We have serious concerns about the implications of it being fully implemented, as well as our concerns about the underlying humanitarian situation in, Gaza, even before Israel passed the legislation," he told reporters in Washington on Monday. □

Associated Press

## Serbian minister to resign over concrete canopy crash that killed 14 people

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)** — Serbia's construction minister said Monday he was stepping down days after a concrete canopy collapsed at a railway station, killing 14 people and severely injuring three.

Minister Goran Vesic announced his resignation at a hastily called press conference as anger mounted in the Balkan country over the fatal collapse that happened just before noon on Friday in the northern city of Novi Sad. Vesic's resignation needs to be confirmed in Serbia's parliament.

"I would like to inform you that I will formally submit my

resignation tomorrow morning," said Vesic. "Once the parliament accepts it, I will no longer perform this duty."

Surveillance camera footage showed the massive canopy on the outer wall of the station building crashing down on the people sitting below on benches or going in and out. The train station has been renovated twice in recent years. Critics of Serbia's populist government attributed the disaster to rampant corruption, a lack of transparency and sloppy work during the reconstruction. The renovation was

part of a wider deal with Chinese construction companies.

Opposition parties have demanded the resignation of top officials, including President Aleksandar Vucic and Prime Minister Milos Vucevic, accusing them of being responsible for the deadly accident. The opposition says Vesic is just a scapegoat for the real culprits behind the tragedy. Opposition groups plan to hold a rally on Tuesday in Novi Sad and more protests later if their demands are not met.

Vesic said that he does not accept any guilt for the



Serbia's government minister for infrastructure and construction Goran Vesic, in Belgrade, Serbia, on March 21, 2023, Vesic said on Monday he was stepping down days after a concrete canopy collapsed at a railway station, killing 14 people and severely injuring three.

Associated Press

deaths of the victims. "I cannot accept guilt for the death of 14 people because neither I, nor the people who work with me, bear even a shred of re-

sponsibility for the tragedy that happened," he said. "I urge the authorities to determine as soon as possible who was responsible for this tragedy." □



## Mexico's National Guard kills 2 Colombians and wounds 4 on a migrant smuggling route near the U.S.

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's National Guard fatally shot two Colombians and wounded four others in what the Defense Department claimed was a confrontation near the U.S. border.

Colombia's foreign ministry said in a statement Sunday that all of the victims were migrants who had been "caught in the crossfire." It identified the dead as a 20-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman, and gave the number of Colombians wounded as five, not four. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

Mexico's Defense Department, which controls the National Guard, did not respond to requests for comment Monday on whether the victims were migrants, but it said one Colombian who was not injured in the shootings was turned over to immigration officials, suggesting they were.

If they were migrants, it would mark the second time in just over a month that military forces in Mexico have opened fire on and killed migrants.

On Oct. 1, the day President Claudia Sheinbaum took office, soldiers opened



**Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, center, reviews the troops with Defense Minister Gen. Ricardo Trevilla Trejo, left, and Navy Secretary Alf. Raymundo Pedro Morales, at Campo Marte in Mexico City, Oct. 3, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

fire on a truck, killing six migrants in the southern state of Chiapas.

An 11-year-old girl from Egypt, her 18-year-old sister and a 17-year-old boy from El Salvador died in that shooting, along with people from Peru and Honduras.

The most recent shootings happened Saturday on a dirt road near Tecate, east of Otay Mesa on the California border, that is fre-

quently used by Mexican migrant smugglers, the department said in a statement late Sunday.

The Defense Department said a militarized National Guard patrol came under fire after spotting two trucks in the area, which is near an informal border crossing and wind power generation plant known as La Rumorosa.

One truck sped off and escaped. The National

Guard opened fire on the other truck, killing two Colombians and wounding four others. There was no immediate information on their conditions, and there were no reported casualties among the guardsmen involved. One Colombian and one Mexican man were found and detained unharmed at the scene, and the departments said officers found a pistol and several magazines com-

monly used for assault rifles at the scene.

Colombians have sometimes been recruited as gunmen for Mexican drug cartels, which are also heavily involved in migrant smuggling. But the fact the survivor was turned over to immigration officials and that the Foreign Relations Department contacted the Colombian consulate suggests they were migrants. Cartel gunmen sometimes escort or kidnap migrants as they travel to the U.S. border. One possible scenario was that armed migrant smugglers may have been in one or both of the trucks, but that the migrants were basically unarmed bystanders.

The defense department said the three National Guard officers who opened fire have been taken off duty.

Former president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who left office Sept. 30, gave the military an unprecedentedly wide role in public life and law enforcement; he created the militarized Guard and used the combined military forces as the country's main law enforcement agencies, supplanting police. □

## Volcanic eruption burns houses in Indonesia, killing at least 10 people

**By JAKOBUS HERIN**

**Associated Press**

**MAUMERE, Indonesia (AP)** — Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least 10 people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions widens on the remote island of Flores.

The eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki around midnight spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) into the air and hot ashes hit several villages, burning down houses including a convent of Catholic nuns, said Firman Yosef, an official at the Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki monitoring post.

He said volcanic material was thrown up to 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from its crater, blanketing nearby vil-



**In this photo made available by Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Agency (PVMBG) of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the sky glows from the eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki early Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, in East Flores, Indonesia.**

**Associated Press**

lages and towns with tons of volcanic debris and forcing residents to flee.

Rescuers were still searching for more bodies buried under collapsed houses, said Abdul Muhari, the National Disaster Management Agency's spokesperson. Muhari said all the bodies, including a child, were found within a 4-kilometer (2.4 mile) radius of the crater.

He said at least 10,000 people have been affected by the eruption in six villages of Wulanggintang District, and four villages in Ile Bura district. Some have fled to relatives' houses while the local government is ready-

ing schools to use as temporary shelters.

The country's volcano monitoring agency increased the volcano's alert status to the highest level and more than doubled the exclusion zone to a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) radius after midnight on Monday as eruptions became more frequent.

A nun in Hokeng village died and another was missing, said Augusta Palma, the head of the Saint Gabriel Foundation that oversees convents on the majority-Catholic island.

"Our nuns ran out in panic under a rain of volcanic ash in the darkness," Palma said. □



## Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

**According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.**

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands

of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer



see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call

Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □



## Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

**(Oranjestad)--If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.**

### Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

### Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area includes the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

### San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by

Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas. □

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.





## Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For



many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is func-



tional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Bill & Heather Watson.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is my happy place!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three levels of honor are as follows:**

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)



Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

**The honorees were:**

Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. George & Mrs. Jill Bowen from Riverside, United States.  
Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Aruba Beach Club Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with

gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

**The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:**

- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Family vacations.
- Home away from home.
- The feeling of safety on the island.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

**Picuda, Sphyræna barracuda, Greater Barracuda**

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyræna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for

its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names

vary according to size.

**Description**

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter,

while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

**In Aruba:**

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.



**Picuda**  
Greater Barracuda  
*Sphyræna barracuda*



# Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.**

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

## Iguanas



Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

## Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the

way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

## Blue Kododo



These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus*

*arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

## Striped anole



The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

**Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.**



# The Aruban Cunukero

## From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.



Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasant-ries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with

other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to be-

come real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th cen-

tury that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that

many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events. □

**Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olie-industrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.**



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 Fast runner  
1 Nonsense  
6 "— bien!" 42 Gets up

10 Boxing ring  
border  
11 Flour source  
12 Let up  
13 Kitchen cooker

14 Vanished  
15 Closing number  
16 Rink material  
17 Model buy  
18 Was a pioneer  
19 Vies  
22 Skating group  
23 River of Russia  
26 Fruit desserts  
29 Morse bit  
32 Urgent call  
33 Road rescue  
34 "Lose Yourself" rapper  
36 Selfish cry  
37 Heathen  
38 Dwight's wife  
39 School paper  
40 Deal maker

**DOWN**  
1 Like "Hamlet"  
2 Peter Weller film role  
3 Beach in a 1964 song  
4 Fountain of jazz  
5 Jargon suffix  
6 Compared with  
7 Of the kidneys  
8 National symbol  
9 Spirited horse

L	A	S	S	O	C	O	S	T	A
A	R	T	U	R	A	U	T	O	S
D	O	O	R	B	U	S	T	E	R
E	M	O	I	S	T	A	R	E	
S	A	L	U	T	E	S	M	E	N
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E	L	M		R	E	G	A	T	T
D	I	E		O	R	E	R	E	P
G	A	N	G	B	U	S	T	E	R
E	N	S	U	E		T	E	A	S
S	T	E	M	S		S	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer

11 News-paper reports  
15 Suitable  
17 Lamp fuel  
20 Snap  
21 Hit show letters  
24 Now and then  
25 Like a pride  
27 May honoree  
28 Candy  
29 Ocean measure  
30 Nebraska city  
31 Bengal cat  
35 New-born's need  
36 Star followers  
38 Ruin

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
10						11			
12						13			
14					15				
16				17			18		
19			20			21			
	22					23	24	25	
				26		27			28
29	30	31		32			33		
34			35				36		
37						38			
39						40			
41						42			

4-17

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

LZ TZG BRCZFW ZT ZGSWIF

VSDG NZQ NZQIFWAP LZ TZG

LWFB IW. — MZTPQMBQF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT TO SHINE LIKE A SUN, FIRST BURN LIKE A SUN. — A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

## Cruise ship Schedule: November 03 - 10 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	03	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
MON	04	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	07.00	16.00	C	1
TUE	05	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	07	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	08	CARNIVAL MIRACLE	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	09	ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	08.00	****	C	1
SUN	10	AIDAPERLA - Dept.	****	22.00	C	-
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-

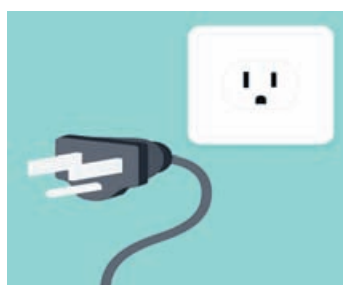
## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7





Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, also known as TEPCO, the operator of Japan's wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, reveals a robot to be used to retrieve debris at the power plant in Kobe, western Japan, May 28, 2024.

Associated Press

## A robot retrieves the first melted fuel from Fukushima nuclear reactor

By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — A remote-controlled robot has safely returned with a tiny piece of melted fuel it collected from inside one of three damaged reactors at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant for the first time since the 2011 meltdown.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, which manages the plant, said Saturday that the extendable fishing rod-like robot successfully clipped a piece of gravel of about 5 millimeters (0.2 inches), the size of a tiny bit of granola, from the top surface of a mound of molten fuel debris that sits on the bottom of the No. 2 reactor's primary containment vessel. The "telesco" robot, with its frontal tongs still holding the melted fuel bit, returned to the enclosed container for safe storage after workers in full hazmat gear pulled it out of the containment vessel earlier Saturday. The sample return marks the first time the melted fuel is retrieved out of the containment vessel. But the mission is not over until it's certain that the sample's radioactivity is below a set standard and safely placed into a container. □



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##### San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel. 584 5794

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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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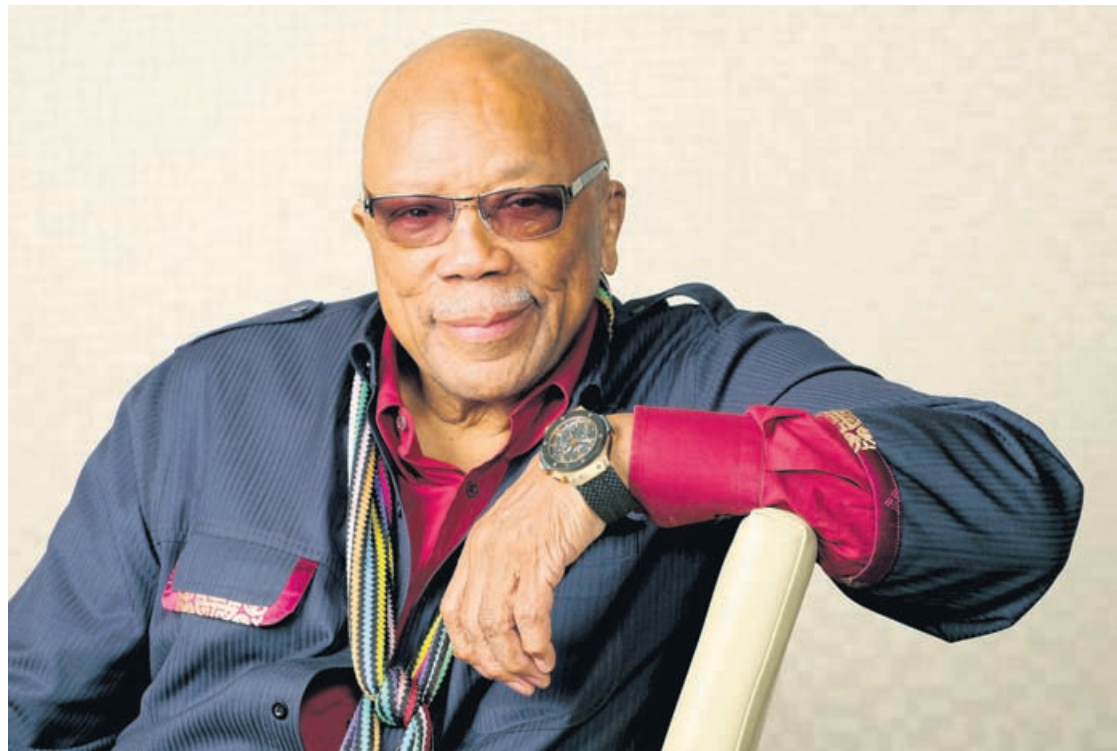
# Quincy Jones, music titan who worked with everyone from Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson, dies at 91

By **HILLEL ITALIE**  
AP National Writer

Quincy Jones, the multitalented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91. Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family. Jones was to have received an honorary Academy Award later this month.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and leaving behind a vast musical catalog that includes some of the richest moments of American song and rhythm. Over the past half century, it was hard to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with Jones'



Music producer Quincy Jones poses for a portrait to promote his documentary "Quincy" during the Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 7, 2018, in Toronto.

name on it or someone in the music, television or movie industries who did not have some connection to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World."

In a career that began

when records were still played on vinyl at 78 rpm, singling out any work seems unfair. But honors likely go to his productions with Jackson on "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad," albums universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination fit perfectly with the bursting talents of Jackson as he sensationally transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," Jones and Jackson drew upon disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and African chants. For "Thriller," some of the most memo-

orable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-defying "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track. "Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone, helped Jackson become the first major Black artist to have a video played on MTV and influenced countless performers.

"Michael had the look and the voice, and I had every sound you can think of," Jones would explain.

The list of his honors and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q": 28 Grammys (out of 80

nominations), an honorary Academy Award and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur and the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy. In 2001, Jones was named a Kennedy Center Honoree for his contributions to American culture. He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones," and his memoir made him a bestselling author.

"Despite all the Grammys and the special awards and testimonials that maturity bestows, it will always be the values you carry within yourself of work, love, and integrity that carry the greatest worth, because these are what get you through with your dreams intact, your heart held firm and your spirit ready for another day," he wrote in his book.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember. But he looked back sadly on his childhood, telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing parents or caretakers, and those who don't. Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. □

Associated Press

## Not just for summer: 'Brat' is Collins Dictionary's word of the year

**LONDON (AP)** — Collins Dictionary has declared "brat" — the album title that became a summer-living ideal — its 2024 word of the year. The word, used by singer Charli XCX as the title of her sixth studio album, has been defined as "characterized by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude." Collins lexicographers said on Friday that in the phrase "brat summer," it became "one of the most talked about words of 2024." "More than a hugely successful album, 'brat' is a cultural phenomenon that has resonated with people globally, and 'brat summer' established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life," the dictionary said. Collins experts monitor

their 20-billion-word database to create the annual list of new and notable words that reflect the ever-evolving English language. Other new and notable words for 2024 include "era," in the sense of "a period of one's life or career that is of a distinctive character." It's inspired by Taylor Swift's world-conquering Eras tour.

Other notable neologisms among the dictionary's word-of-the-year finalists include the growing movement against mass tourism, "anti-tourism"; "delulu," meaning utterly mistaken or unrealistic in one's ideas or expectations; and "rawdoggging," taking a long-haul flight with no devices or distractions. □



Charli xcX attends the WSJ. Magazine Innovators Awards at the Museum of Modern Art on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press



# Saints fire coach Dennis Allen after seventh straight loss. Darren Rizzi named interim coach

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The New Orleans Saints fired coach Dennis Allen on Monday, a day after a loss at last-place Carolina extended the Saints' losing streak to seven games their longest since 1999.

"DA is an excellent football coach," Saints general manager Mickey Loomis said. "This season, we've had an avalanche of injuries. It took its toll. DA has never offered excused. He fought each day for this organization and this team and that is what makes today disappointing."

The Saints named special teams coordinator Darren Rizzi the club's interim coach for the final eight games of what is expected to be the fourth straight season without a playoff berth for New Orleans (2-7).

Allen is 18-25 without a play-off appearance since taking over in 2022 after Sean Payton, the most successful coach in Saints history, began what turned out to be a one-season retirement from coaching.

Allen was promoted by general manager Mickey Loomis after a six-season tenure as New Orleans' defensive



New Orleans Saints head coach Dennis Allen walks on the sideline in the first half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers in Inglewood, Calif., Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

coordinator, a period that saw his unit ranked in the top 10 in the NFL in 2020 and 2021.

"Dennis has been a part of our organization for many years," Saints owner Gayle Benson said, referring to Allen's initial stint as a defensive assistant with New Orleans from 2006 to 2010. "He has been extremely loyal and professional."

"All of this makes today very tough for me and our orga-

nization," Benson added. "However, this decision is something that I felt we needed to make at this time."

While the Saints continued to field one of the better defenses in the NFL during Allen's first two seasons as head coach, the offense has been erratic and often struggled in the late stages of close games.

This year, with new offensive coordinator Klint Kubiak in

charge, the offense began the season by scoring a stunning 91 points over consecutive victories in Weeks 1 and 2. Since then, however, the unit has struggled to produce while injuries to key players have mounted. Center Erik McCoy, the Saints' most accomplished offensive lineman, was the first to go down in Week 3 and hasn't played since. Meanwhile, New Orleans has endured stints without

quarterback Derek Carr, top receivers Chris Olave and Rashid Shaheed and veteran guard Cesar Ruiz, among others.

New Orleans entered Sunday's loss to the Panthers without three of its top four cornerbacks on defense: Marshon Lattimore, Paulson Adebo and Kool-Aid McK-instry.

But Carr was back from a three-game absence.

The Saints outgained the Panthers 427 yards to 246 yet still lost, 23-22 to a team it had beaten 47-10 in Week 1.

Allen went 7-10 in his first season with the Saints and improved to 9-8 last year, narrowly missing the playoffs. Allen hoped that with a new offense, New Orleans would improve enough to make the playoffs for the first time since 2020 which also was franchise all-time passer Drew Brees' final NFL season.

But since its strong opening two weeks, New Orleans' offense has largely languished and dropped to 16th in yards per game (331.4) through Sunday's games. Allen's defense, meanwhile, has plummeted to 28th, allowing 376.4 yards per game. □

# Royals sign RHP Michael Wacha to 3-year, \$51 million deal with option for 2028, AP source says

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP Sports Writer

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** —



Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Michael Wacha throws during the third inning in Game 4 of an American League Division baseball playoff series against the New York Yankees Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

The Royals are bringing back right-hander Michael Wacha on a three-year,

\$51 million contract that includes a club option for the 2028 season, a person familiar with the terms told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Wacha could earn up to \$72 million over four years including performance bonuses, the person said on condition of anonymity because the club did not release financial terms.

He has salaries of \$18 million in each of the next two seasons and \$14 million in 2027. The deal includes a \$14 million club option for 2028 with a \$1 million buy-out. In 2027 and '28, Wacha could earn up to \$4 million in performance bonuses in each year: \$500,000 for 105

innings and each additional five through 140.

The 33-year-old Wacha, who went 13-8 with a 3.35 ERA this past season, signed with Kansas City last offseason on a deal that included a \$16 million salary for 2024 and a \$16 million player option for next season. He would have had plenty of suitors in free agency, but the new with the Royals gives him the longevity he desired and the club some certainty regarding their starting rotation.

Wacha is expected to speak to reporters Monday at Kauffman Stadium.

"I do believe that Michael and his wife enjoy being in Kansas City and that's

always an advantage," Royals general manager J.J. Picollo said at the conclusion of the season, when asked about the Royals' chances of signing him again. "He had a very good experience here. I think he and (Royals pitching coach) Brian Sweeney got along great. So there are reasons to be optimistic."

"But he pitched very well this year," Picollo said, "and he is going to have opportunities with other clubs, so we will work on that. Luckily, we have a few weeks to sit down with Michael and his representation and try to see how we can work something out." □







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## The reward isn't always greater than the risk for aggressive coaches: Analysis

By **ROB MAADDI**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Nick Sirianni got away with aggressive decisions that failed. Mike McCarthy and Sean Payton had no such luck.

It's easy to second-guess when the calls don't work. The Philadelphia Eagles held on to beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-23 on Sunday thanks to a twisting interception in the end zone by linebacker Nakobe Dean.

If not, Sirianni would be lamenting passing up nine points. The Eagles went 0 for 2 on fourth down, choosing to try to extend drives instead of trying two field goals inside of 45 yards. They also failed three times on 2-point conversion attempts, including twice when Jalen Hurts was stopped on the tush push. "We've done pretty good with those in the past. You



Dallas Cowboys head coach Mike McCarthy walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, in Atlanta. The Falcons won 27-21.

Associated Press

always think about everything. You think about who you have. You think about your past experiences with

it. You always look at the analytics of it," Sirianni explained. "In the moment I'm always doing what I think is

best for the football team. Today it didn't work. That's the way it goes. That's the hat I have to wear. When

we get a fourth down and we convert a fourth down, nothing is really said. When we don't, I understand there will be questions.

"Again, I have to be able to have the (guts) to do that really at the end of the day and say, 'Am I doing everything I can do to help us win the game?' In those moments I thought I was, but I'll go back and relook at them. I'm always going to be hypercritical of myself. When it doesn't work, I'm definitely going to think even more about it."

The Eagles blew a 22-0 lead and were in position to lose when the Jaguars had a first down at the 13 with 1:42 left in the game. But Trevor Lawrence threw a poor pass intended for D'Ernest Johnson and Dean made a leaping grab to seal the fourth straight win for Philadelphia (6-2). □

## Michael Jordan, fellow team owners head to federal court for hearing in antitrust fight vs. NASCAR

By **JENNA FRYER**  
AP Auto Racing Writer  
**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Retired NBA great Michael Jordan and his fellow owners of two NASCAR teams went to federal court Monday for a hearing in their antitrust fight against the stock car series over what they say is an unfair business model. 23XI Racing, which is owned by Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, and Front Row Motorsports, owned by restaurant entrepreneur Bob Jenkins, sued NASCAR and chairman Jim France in October after months of tense negotiations over NASCAR's charter system, which is essen-

tially a franchise model that includes revenue sharing. The two teams say NASCAR gave all Cup Series teams a last-minute, take-it-or-

leave-it offer in September that both 23XI and Front Row refused to sign. The owners contend the charter system limits competition



Car owner Michael Jordan watches from the pits during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla., Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

by unfairly binding teams to the series, its tracks and its suppliers, and they called the France family and NASCAR "monopolistic bullies." The fight is playing out as NASCAR heads into its championship weekend, with the title-deciding race set for Sunday in Phoenix with 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick among the four drivers who can win.

U.S. District Judge Frank D. Whitney last week denied an expedited discovery request from 23XI and Front Row for NASCAR to produce documents prior to Monday's preliminary injunction hearing.

"While the proposed discovery requests may help

plaintiffs show a likelihood of success on the merits, they are not sufficiently narrowly tailored," Whitney wrote.

Jordan, Hamlin and Curtis Polk of 23XI were joined by Jenkins and Front Row President Jerry Freeze for the hearing, which is crucial to how next season will proceed for the two teams. 23XI and Front Row can still compete next year but as open teams. They argue to even compete under NASCAR's open team agreement, there is a clause that would release NASCAR from any future litigation, so both teams want an injunction to pursue their current lawsuit while they race. □